

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02688 191807Z
ACTION ARA-14

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PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 SAB-02 L-03 /054 W
-----084046 192341Z /15

R 191726Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2688

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ICA/PANAMA 191725Z TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY -- PANAMANIAN PRESS APRIL 19 REFLECTED NATION'S PRIDE
AND
JOY AT FINAL RATIFICATION OF CANAL TREATIES. FRONT PAGES OF ALL
MORNINGS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO REPORTS ON VOTE, TORRIJOS SPEECH ON
NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TV, TORRIJOS PRESS CONFERENCE, AND CARTER
STATEMENTS AFTER VOTE.
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2- ESTRELLA'S BANNER HEAD, "TREATY RATIFIED; YES 68, NO 32" AND APRIL
18 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA'S WHICH HELD FRONT PAGE UNTIL AFTER
VOTE, "TORRIJOS CARTER TREATY APPROVED: INTERVENTION BURIED," SOMEWA
T
LESS ANTAGONISTIC THAT MATUTION'S "TORRIJOS; NOTING IN TREATY
LEGALLY JUSTIFIES INTERVENTION; IF THE U.S. INTERVENES, WE WILL

DESTROY THE CANAL." AND CRITICA'S "ENCLAVE KNOCKED OUT: CANAL WAS WITHIN TWO VOTES OF BEING CLOSED." QUOTES TAKEN FROM TORRIJOS NATIONWIDE STATEMENT AND PRESS CONFERENCE.

3- OTHER FRONT PAGE HEADS NOTED TORRIJOS PROMISE THAT POLITICAL EXILES CAN RETURN AND THAT PARTY SYSTEM WILL BE ALLOWED ONCE MORE IN PANAMA. CARTER STATEMENT TO PRESS FRONT PAGED IN ALL MORNINGS, UNDER HEADS SUCH AS ESTRELLA'S, "CARTER: WE DO NOT HAVE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN PANAMA."

4. EDITS ARE EUPHORIC, BUT WITHOUT GREAT SUBSTANCE, WRITTEN IN FIRST MOMENTS AFTER VOTE. CRITICA SAYS PANAMA HAS "RESCUED MUCH OF ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY AND ... PROSPECTS OF THE DISSAPPEARANCE OF COLONIALISM ARE MUCH MORE HOPEFUL THAT THEY WERE ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO." MATUTINO IN FRONT PAGE EDIT NOTES "THE TREATIES ... CONTAIN A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF PANAMANIAN DEMANDS WHICH IN THE PAST COULD NOT SURPASS THE LIMITS OF THE UNREACHABLE DREAM. TODAY THEY ARE REALITY." EDIT CONCLUDES, "PANAMA ... FACES A SERIOUS PROMISE... WE NOW HAVE THE RIGHT WHICH WE ALWAYS CLAIMED BECAUSE IT WAS ALWAYS OURS. WE NOW MUST BE WORTHY OF THE FAITH THE WORLD HAS IN US, IN THE FACE OF A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS LARGER THAN THE DIMENSIONS OF OUR STRUGGLE."

4. ESTRELLA, ALSO IN FRONT PAGE EDIT NOTES ITS "HAPPINESS AND SATISFACTION," BUT CLAIMS THAT "SENATORIAL DECISION DID NOT SURPRISE US IN THE LEAST, SINCE WE EXPECTED IT WITH AN UNWAVERING UNCLASSIFIED

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FAITH. AND IN FACT THAT IS THE MOST SINCERE AND WARM HOMAGE WHICH WE CAN PAY TO THE GREAT NORTHAMERICAN PEOPLE, WHOM WE HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRERED." PRESIDENT CARTER, CONTINUES EDIT, AND A LARGE GROUP OF SENATORS, "HAPPILY UNDERSTOOD THE ABSOLUTE IMPOSSIBILITY OF RECONCILING THE NOBLE BANNERS OF LIBERATION OF MEN AND NATIONS WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RAISED HIGH...WITH THE SURVIVAL OF A COLONIALIST SITUATION."

5. ESTRELLA CONCLUDES, "FOR THOSE WHO VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES, OUR PERENNIAL GRATITUDE AND OUR CONGRATULATIONS FOR HAVING KNOWN HOW TO HONOR THE HIGH OFFICE WHICH IS SENATOR OF THE U.S. AND FOR THOSE WHO DID ALL THEY COULD DO TO PREVENT THE TREATIES FROM BEING RATIFIED, OUR COMMISERATION FOR THEIR DEFEAT, IN THE HOPE THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED WILL SERVE THEM AS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE TO AVOID FUTURE ERRORS".

6. ALL PANAMANIAN RADIO AND TV STATIONS CARRIED LIVE TORRIJOS STATEMENT AFTER VOTE AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AT HOLIDAY INN. ICA PANAMA FED LIVE VOA BROADCAST OF PRES. CARTER STATEMENT IN SPANISH TO NATIONWIDE HOOKUP OF ALL PANAMANIAN RADIO STATIONS. CHANNEL 4 CARRIED DIRECT ICA BROADCAST FROM WASHINGTON, THEN INCLUDED PRESIDENTS TWO STATEMENTS IN ITS SIMILAR LIVE ICA-ASSISTED BROADCAST.

CHANNEL 4 COMMENTARY CALLED TREATIES "IN BEST INTERESTS OF
PANAMA." ITEM
UNQUOTE JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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